



Technical session lecture hall

DFI Contributes to the Success of SEFE 8

Over 5,000 attendees visited the tradeshow portion of the 8th Seminar on Special Foundations Engineering and Geotechnics (SEFE 8) in São Paulo, Brazil, with over 700 people attending the technical sessions. DFI exhibited and co-sponsored the event with ABEF (Brazilian Contractor Association) and ABMS (Brazilian chapter of the ISSMGE) on June 23-25, 2015.

Several DFI members were invited to deliver keynote lectures during the well-attended three-day conference:

- Luca Bruni, from Servizi e Costruzioni in Italy, spoke on the status of the DFI-EFFC Carbon Calculator and how the tool can and should be used to facilitate the selection of less impactful design and construction methods.
- Sam Paikowsky, from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell in the U.S., presented on the reliability of pile design and testing and use of large databases to reduce uncertainty.
- Garland Likins, from Pile Dynamics in the U.S., spoke on the need for thorough testing and the methods available.
- Maurice Bottiau, from Franki Foundations in Belgium, described current status and future trends in deep foundations including advancements in ground improvement techniques, the impact of equipment and material advancements, environmental considerations when selecting foundation types, and the importance of knowing the soil conditions with which you are dealing.
- Serge Varaskin, from Menard in France, discussed soil treatment and improvement.
- Antonio Marinucci of American Equipment and Bernie Hertlein of GEI Consultants, both from the U.S., spoke on the collaborative study between the U.S. and Europe on bored piles and practices in both regions.



Luca Bruni delivers a keynote lecture

The presentations were delivered in either English or Portuguese, with dual translation via headphones available.

Chu Ho of Arup's New York office was chosen to provide a talk during one of the plenary sessions. He presented information on New York City's Second Avenue Subway project and the importance of construction monitoring in the city's crowded urban area. DFI members from Brazil also spoke or moderated sessions

including Clovis Salioni Jr., ABEF representative; Jarbas Milititsky, past president of ABMS; and Fred Falconi, a member since 2008.

Throughout the program, sponsors were given the opportunity to present information on their products and services, in addition to displaying in the exhibition area. DFI corporate members were represented there as well: Franz-Werner Gerresen of Bauer-Pileco in Germany, Marco Clo of CZM in Brazil and Federico Pagliacci of Trevi Group in Italy. Over 90 exhibitors participated.

Other hot topics of discussion during the conference occurred during roundtables on cement quality, risk management and site investigation. These issues continue to come up across the globe at



Attendees mingle in the exhibition hall



Rigs on display in the exhibition area

other conferences where DFI is involved, some of which are being addressed by DFI committees and sponsored research through DFI's Committee Project Fund. DFI is dedicated to providing a forum worldwide where industry members can share their information and findings on these matters and improve the design and construction of deep foundation projects. DFI's participation in SEFE 8 along with ABEF and ABMS was a mutually beneficial experience. The dialogue is open for a similar partnership over the next three years while plans for SEFE 9 progress.